

# issues

## Message from the State Veterinarian

**HAVE YOU** seen BOAH's new certificates of veterinary inspection (or CVIs)? If not, you will soon. (Please note: Old CVI forms are still valid; remaining supplies need to be used before new ones are issued.)

We've updated the forms to include enlarging the small animal certificate to 8.5 by 11 inches and the addition of an acclimation statement and owner's signature.

The large animal CVI received a significant overhaul this year in response to feedback we've received from our customers. We've packed lots information on the sheet, but we've maintained a commitment of keeping a one-page form. In doing so, the number of animals listed on the certificate has dropped from 15 to 12. To accommodate the need for more animals, the new CVI allows the veterinarian to complete a continuation page (another CVI sheet) without having to complete every entry blank. Critical information (which includes names, permit number and signature) must still be completed. We hope this streamlines the process for those moving large numbers of animals at once.

Two other big changes include a space to list a consignee at public sale, which will help our staff trace animals in a disease event, and spaces for premise identification numbers of the buyer and seller listed on the certificate.

Our goal is to increase awareness for the need to register all premises where livestock and poultry are housed, as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). During their April meeting, members of the Board of Animal Health approved a rule that requires registration of all premises associated with the purchase, sale and/or exhibition of all livestock and poultry species (except for horses and camelids, which are voluntary) by September 2006. While that deadline is more than a year away, producers need to start thinking about registration now.

The premise identification number (or PREMID) is not currently required and does not have to be entered on the CVI; however, we highly encourage it. The absence of a PREMID will not prevent someone from showing, transporting or selling an animal under current state and federal requirements.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
Indiana State Veterinarian

## BOAH Board Actions

**DURING THEIR** regular meeting, Board members took the following actions:

- Adopted a new rule to establish a state system allocating premise identification numbers for premises associated with certain animals, animal-related enterprises, and meat and poultry and dairy products production and to require that a person obtain a premise identification number before buying, selling or exhibiting livestock.
- Adopted changes to dairy rules. (See Dairy for more details)
- Adopted a new rule to allow persons to move carcasses, or parts thereof, of certain

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species of cervidae into the state if those materials are not attached or included in the movement. (See cattle/ruminant for more details)

## Meat & Poultry

**MEAT & Poultry** Inspection Division staff has a direct impact on small business in Indiana every day. During 2004, Indiana's state-inspected establishments slaughtered under inspection more than 115,000-head of livestock and poultry. Custom-exempt establishments slaughtered more than 61,600-head as well.

## Companion Animal

**RABBIT HEMORRHAGIC** disease (RHD) was identified in domestic rabbits on a Vanderburgh County farm. While highly infectious to domestic breeds, RHD is not known to harm humans, other animals or native wild rabbit species. Staff members from BOAH and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services investigated the source of the disease that killed nearly half of the 200 rabbits on the farm. After a thorough investigation, BOAH feels confident that all the threat has been eliminated.

If a practitioner suspects RHD, he/she should suggest to the client to send the rabbit to the Purdue diagnostic lab for a preliminary workup. These submissions to the lab will be done at the expense of the client; BOAH can not absorb the cost of this testing. If a sizeable rabbit operation has significant unexplained death loss consistent with RHD, please contact BOAH right away to determine whether a foreign animal disease investigation is necessary.

## Cattle/Ruminant

A **SECOND** case of BSE has recently been diagnosed in the United States. The infected cow was considered high risk as she was born prior to the ruminant feed ban of 1997. The downer animal did not enter the human or animal food chain due to the increased surveillance measures put into place since the first U.S. case of BSE in December 2003. Tests are currently being performed to determine the source of infection.

**BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS** has been identified in a Minnesota beef herd. The disease was first detected in a five-year-old cow at slaughter. The infected animal was traced back to a Roseau County herd. Since the initial detection, 18 animals from the same herd have tested positive. Minnesota animal health officials are currently in the process of destroying 900 cows that have been traced to the original infected animal. Minnesota has been considered a TB-Free state since 1971.

**MOVEMENT OF** cervid carcasses will be a little more restricted with the amendment of the cervid carcass rule. The amended BOAH rule allows a person to move carcasses or parts of carcasses of certain species of cervidae into the state. The head, spinal cord or small intestine of out-of-state cervidae are prohibited from entering Indiana.

**CERTIFIED JOHNE'S** veterinarians need to submit paperwork, including an original invoice, in a timely manner to ensure payment while program funds are still available. Prompt submissions also increase Indiana's testing total, which influences the availability of future funding. Also, ELISA-inconclusive or ELISA-positive animals need to be retested by fecal culture for confirmation. Questions or guidance should be directed to the Ruminant Division.

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## Scrapie

**CONTROLLING THE** spread of scrapie is now a little easier for Indiana sheep producers under a new program launched by BOAH. The program shares a producer's costs of genetic testing of sheep for susceptibility for the disease.

The blood test, known as codon 171 testing, identifies genetic markers that make an animal susceptible to scrapie and may be passed on to lambs. Owners who know the genetic makeup of their breeding stock can make better management decisions to eliminate that trait from their flocks. By selecting scrapie-resistant bloodlines, shepherds can add value to their flocks.

Producers who want to participate must call BOAH for pre-approval. A licensed and accredited veterinarian must collect blood samples for tests to be completed at any of nine USDA-approved laboratories. After testing is complete and results are received, the flock owner must submit a payment request to BOAH, along with copies of paid receipts and test results, for reimbursement.

Producers may receive up to \$15 per animal to pay for the costs of testing. (Most of approved laboratories charge less than that.) The program will also pay veterinary charges up to \$25 for the first animal and \$5 for each additional, up to five sheep. The program is for testing of sheep only; codon testing is not reliable in goats. All participating flocks must be enrolled in Indiana's flock identification program. (Producers may enroll when calling to receive codon-testing approval.)

To participate in the codon-testing program, producers should call 317/227-0318.

## Dairy

**CHANGES TO** BOAH dairy regulations will provide new opportunities for goat milk producers. The new regulation allows for a 7-day interval for goat milk pickup. This will allow for more market opportunity for this niche. Biologically, goat milk is different from cow's milk, thus allowing for longer storage with out affecting the quality or safety of the product.

## Disaster Preparedness/ASERT

**AFTER MONTHS** of planning, ASERT teams are finally being formed. Applications have been received from veterinarians across the state. The development group has been busy putting together a training program for mid-October. The ASERT program will provide an excellent opportunity for Hoosier veterinarians to become an integral part of their community response functions, as well as providing the opportunity for continuing education credit.

## Animal Identification

**DR. JENNIFER** Greiner recently joined the BOAH staff as the Director of Identification Programs. In this newly created position, Dr. Greiner is responsible for bringing Indiana into alignment with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). She is a graduate of Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The Iowa native has lived in Indiana for the last two years, where she was a practicing veterinarian at Wolcott Veterinary Clinic.

**THE PREMISE** identification program is up and running. Producers who haven't registered can contact BOAH directly or visit their local Farm Service Agency office for an application. More information is available on the website at [www.boah.in.gov](http://www.boah.in.gov). Producers who have registered but not yet received confirmation of their premise ID number have no need to worry: Notifications will be sent in the future.

## Swine

**SWINE BRUCELLOSIS** has been diagnosed in a small swine herd in Iowa. Although the disease was first diagnosed in the producer, epidemiology now shows that the producer was infected by his own herd that was exposed to feral swine. This small herd has been depopulated and some of the test-positive animals have been sent to the National Animal Disease Center for further testing.

**PSEUDORABIES CONTINUES** to generate questions for the swine division. BOAH reminds veterinarians, producers and exhibitors alike that pseudorabies testing is not required for exhibition in Indiana. The Swine Division would also like to express gratitude to the pork producers, advisory committee, veterinary practitioners, market operators and a host of other groups who have made the pseudorabies eradication program a true success.

## Avian

**BIOSECURITY IS** always a great concern for the poultry industry. With the media frenzy surrounding avian influenza (AI), biosecurity has become an even greater concern for the Avian Division. Avian Division staff, in cooperation with the Indiana State Poultry Association, has been traveling Indiana discussing biosecurity and other animal health issues to continue to strengthen the poultry industry and combat the misconceptions related to AI.

## Equine

**A STRANGLES** break was contained quickly at Indiana Downs due to the quick response of Indiana Downs and BOAH employees. A total of 54 horses had to be quarantined at the racing facility after two infected animals began to show clinical signs. BOAH staff in cooperation with track veterinarians performed weekly tests on the quarantined animals over a period of three weeks to release the barn quarantine.

**A HOT** dry summer has the Companion Animal Division preparing for the West Nile virus. Colonies of the virus-carrying Culex mosquitoes were discovered early in the summer season. Although, to date, only one human case and no equine cases have been reported, BOAH reminds horse owners that vaccination is the best defense against this debilitating disease.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** have generated many questions during the trail-riding and show season. BOAH reminds veterinarians and horse-owners of the entry requirements for bringing horses into Indiana. Entry into Indiana requires a certificate of veterinary inspection written within 30 days reflecting a negative EIA test. Although required by some neighboring states, Indiana does not require a permit number for the entry of horses into Indiana.



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